

President Starts Action to Curb High Cost of Living; New York Gets Army Food at Cost by August 15th

First Month Of Dry Wave Curbs Crime

Police Reports Show Decrease of 15 Per Cent as Compared With July, 1918; Less Drunkenness

No Gain in Trade Volume Apparent

Addicts Said to Use More Narcotics, but Few Inebriates Acquire Habit

There was a considerable increase in the number of marriage licenses issued last month over the number issued in July, 1918. The increase is not believed to have any connection with prohibition, however, any more than was a similar increase which has occurred in the number of divorce actions filed.

National prohibition has been on the statute books for a month. For thirty-one days it has been an offense against the law to sell the intoxicants upon which prohibitionists placed the blame for poverty stricken homes, crimes and many savings accounts.

There has been less crime. The records of the Police Department and of some of the larger detective agencies show a decrease of 15 per cent in crimes of all kinds, as compared with July, 1918. The decrease is said to be particularly noticeable in crimes of violence.

Arrests for intoxication are fewer. In July, 1918, the daily average for this offense was twenty-four. In July, 1919, it was fourteen. Unofficially, however, little change in the number of drunken men was noticed in districts where the evil was common. The Salvation Army Hotel at 225 Bowery reported no change in the number of "drunks" that had to be ejected, the only apparent result of prohibition being a growing resentment on the part of moderate drinkers. At Union Station, 237 East 104th Street, it was said that only one saloon in the vicinity had closed and there was no evidence of improved conditions.

Parents Not Improved
An officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said complaints of parents who were habitually under the influence of liquor came in as regularly as ever. From two to five such complaints a day were received throughout July, it was said, which was about the number previously received.

The effect of prohibition has not been felt in increased business by the proprietors of small drygoods stores in upper Manhattan and The Bronx, whose neighborhood shops might be expected to be the first to benefit from any increase in domestic cash reserves. Officers of savings banks said prohibition had not increased the number of amount of deposits.

Even the dealers in soft drinks, candy and ice cream, whose business, it was thought, would react immediately and favorably to prohibition, were unanimous in declaring that prohibition had not affected their sales in the least.

Copeland Sees Drug Growth
Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner, said some drug addicts, in filling out their registration cards, admitted they had been alcoholics, and he thought he could see an appreciable increase in the demand for habit-forming drugs as the result of prohibition. Physicians in private practice have noticed no such tendency, however.

Sixth Less Crime In N. Y. Since July 1

Criminals Take Up Drugs and Are Much Harder to Catch, Officers Say

Since the advent of prohibition July 1, crimes of all kinds have decreased about 15 per cent and drunkenness has dropped from an average of twenty-four arrests a day of last year to fourteen a day. These figures were obtained yesterday from records of the police department and detective agencies.

The greatest number of arrests for intoxication in one day following July 1 was twenty-one, while the largest number for July of last year was twenty-eight. The police records show 343 arrests for the first twenty-four days of prohibition, with an approximate total of 440 for the month, as compared with 585 cases for the corresponding month of last year.

Continued on page three

P. S. Commission to Probe Phone Service

ALBANY, July 31.—Chairman Charles B. Hill of the Second District Public Service Commission announced to-day that the commission will to-morrow act on a resolution calling for investigation into the telephone service in New York City. Hundreds of complaints have been received from telephone subscribers within the last few weeks and the commission has assured them that relief would be given. If complaint from other parts of the state warrant it the investigation may be made state-wide.

Next Wednesday the commission will confer with New York City officials in New York on the advisability of an investigation into telephone rates there. A general inquiry is also expected to be started next week for the purpose of restoring the telephone and telegraph rates in force before they were raised by Postmaster General Burleson.

New Party of Democrats to Fight Murphy

Schneider Heads Insurgents in Revolt Over Turning Down by Tammany of Judge J. E. Newburger

The revolt of Democrats incensed over the turning down of Supreme Court Justice J. E. Newburger by Charles F. Murphy, in order to give the nomination to Irwin Untermyer, son of Samuel Untermyer, began to take definite form yesterday. An independent party, to be composed of insurgent Democrats and known as the Citizens' party, will be formed.

Prominent Democrats in all five boroughs are behind the new organization. It plans to put a complete ticket in the field this fall and an independent slate in the field in the 1921 Mayoralty campaign.

These Democrats, through their spokesman, William F. Schneider, of Manhattan, and leader of the Cleveland Democracy, said yesterday that the revolt against Mr. Murphy's control of the city Democracy was now in full blaze in all boroughs.

Time for New Democracy
The turning down of Judge Newburger after twenty-eight years' distinguished service on the bench has brought the insurgent Democrats together, said Mr. Schneider. "I have had communication by letter and telegraph with prominent Democrats in all the boroughs of the city, and they all agree that it is time to organize a city-wide, anti-Tammany Democracy that will have a permanent check on the autocratic bossism of the inner circle of Tammany Hall."

Mr. Schneider said there would be a conference of the insurgent Democrats next Saturday, to be held at the Hotel Newburgh, when it is expected Judge Newburger's position will be known.

Tammany has sent a delegation to Plattburgh, where Judge Newburger is spending his vacation, to urge him to withdraw from the race lest the entire Tammany ticket be destroyed. Friends of Judge Newburger, however, have been equally insistent that the jurist make a fight.

Statement Due Sunday
Over the long distance telephone last night Judge Newburger said he would issue a statement defining his position Sunday.

"I live not yet made up my mind," he said.

He said he had not been waited upon by a Tammany delegation, but his friends here say one private lawyer, friendly both to Judge Newburger and Mr. Murphy, went to Plattburgh Wednesday to try to persuade Judge Newburger to run.

Two prominent Tammany men, one of them close to Mr. Murphy, said last night that if Judge Newburger decided to fight it would insure the defeat of the better part of the Tammany ticket and the consequent retirement of Mr. Murphy as leader.

Jersey City Mayor Fights Police Union Orders Suspension of Men Who Violate Regulations; Inquiry Ordered

Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City wrote yesterday to Charles F. X. O'Brien, Director of Public Safety, asking him to investigate attempts to unionize Jersey City policemen. If any member of the force were found to be guilty of a violation of department rules, in this respect, Mayor Hague said, he should be suspended at once.

7 Republicans Seek Treaty Compromise

'Mild Reservations' Asked by Kellogg, Colt, Cummins, McCumber, McNary, Lenroot, Spencer

Committee Begins Public Hearings

Knox Understands Wilson Opposes Participation of U. S. in Indemnity

WASHINGTON, July 31.—The most definite step yet taken looking to a compromise in the light between the President and Senators over the league of nations was made to-day when seven of the Republican Senators who favored the league and who have talked with the President virtually agreed on a programme of "interpretative reservations," the text of which, however, was not announced.

Only slight differences over the language which should be used separated this group tonight, it was declared.

While the "mild" reservations were being shaped, the Foreign Relations Committee began its public hearings on the peace treaty. Bernard M. Baruch and Bradley Palmer, financial advisers of the American peace delegation, were the witnesses examined. Mr. Baruch said that the question of American participation in the German indemnity was an open one. The statement was made as a result of comment by Senator Knox that he understood President Wilson's position was that the United States should not participate in the indemnity.

Mr. Palmer, after criticism had developed regarding the alien enemy provisions of the treaty, asserted that property rights of Americans were clearly protected under the treaty.

Wilson Offers Protocol

Just after the Senate adjourned to-day the President submitted for ratification the protocol which was drawn up by the Versailles conference placing additional requirements upon Germany. The President's message will not be read until the Senate reconvenes, but it is understood that it will ask that the protocol be ratified along with the treaty.

The seven Senators, who drew up the "mild" reservations, are McNary, McCumber, Cummins, Kellogg, Spencer, Lenroot and Colt. Senator Hale, of Maine, sat in with the Senators virtually as a "liaison officer" between this group and the Republican leaders.

The formal recognition thus given to the "mild reservationists" is the direct result of the irritation caused by Senator Lodge and other Republican leaders by the vigorous attack last week on reservations by Senator Borah, as told in The Tribune on Sunday. Senator Lodge attended a dinner with this group of Senators immediately after the Borah speech, and the plan came into being at that time.

McCumber and Hitchcock Confer

Following this afternoon's meeting Senator McCumber, who is almost as ardently for the league as the President, had a long conference with Senator Hitchcock, the Administration leader.

After this talk Mr. Hitchcock expressed entire satisfaction with the situation. Guarding carefully against any admission that he knew what the "mild reservationists" were doing, Senator Hitchcock said the fight so far had been one of constantly changing fronts.

"First," he said, "last March the opposition was going to cut the league of nations out of the treaty entirely. It was going to force the peace conference to submit the two together. Then later the opposition was going to kill the league. Still later it was going to amend the league beyond recognition."

"Now it is going to adopt vigorous reservations. But here is a programme to get everybody together on mild reservations. Next, I confidently believe, you will find the members of the league gradually giving up their insistence that reservations must be adopted, and we will ratify the league without change. Bear in mind that no one now seriously declares that there are enough votes to separate the league from the treaty, or to amend it."

Republicans Still Confident

The Republicans are very confident, however, feeling that, no matter what may be the text of the reservations, they will be able to get them passed. The final result will be entirely satisfactory.

Continued on page four

City To Be Government Sales Agent

Canned Goods, Produce and Meats Will Be Distributed Far Under Present Retail Prices

Food Cards Are Proposed

Fire and Police Stations and Schools Centres as Long as Supply Lasts

WASHINGTON, July 31.—Army food of every variety, from canned vegetables to cold storage poultry, is to be offered for sale to the people of New York City at cost, under an agreement reached to-day by the War Department and E. J. O'Malley, Deputy Market Commissioner, representing the Municipality of New York.

The War Department agrees to consign the army food to the city government at a figure greatly below the prevailing retail market price, and the municipality will be given thirty days in which to pay the government for the food.

Among the foods that will be available for distribution in New York are the following:

Evaporated apples, bacon, baked beans, lima beans, stringless beans, corned beef, roast beef, dehydrated carrots, canned cherries, sweet corn, cornmeal, white, cornmeal, elvay, cornmeal, ginger crackers, graham crackers, soda crackers, farina, dried codfish, barley flour, corn flour, white corn flour, yellow corn flour, cornstarch flour, graham flour, issue flour, oatmeal flour, potato flour, rice flour, rye flour, substitute bran flour, substitute buckwheat flour, ham, sugar-cured ham, corned beef hash, coarse hominy, fine hominy, Australian assorted jam, macaroni, evaporated milk, oatmeal, rolled oats, evaporated peaches, canned peas, cucumber pickles, fresh frozen poultry, canned pumpkin, prunes, raisins, spaghetti, canned squash and canned tomatoes.

City Takes No Money Risk

The Municipality of New York will be the government's agent in disposing of the food supplies, but will assume no financial risk. Similar agreements will be entered into by the surplus food division of the War Department with every municipality in the country which will agree to distribute the food to its citizens, and refund to the government the price the food brings less the cost of distribution.

"The War Department consented to permit New York City to act as agent in disposing of the surplus army food, when we showed the surplus property officers that the food would reach the greatest number of people at the least cost to the Government," said E. J. O'Malley, Deputy Market Commissioner, after the conference with army food officials. "The government agrees to appoint some city official as its agent, and will consign distributing business to the city. Upon the delivery of these goods they will be distributed to all the firehouses, police stations, school houses, city market places and other available places in the five boroughs so that each community will have an opportunity to buy the foods at a reduction. I believe New York can dispose of her surplus army food twenty-five carloads of army foods, ranging from canned goods to cold storage poultry."

Assistant Secretary of War Crowell and Assistant Director of Sales E. C. Morse, who have been deputized by Secretary Baker to handle the question of food sales, put a staff of officials to work ascertaining the minimum price the government will expect to receive for the foods turned over to municipalities. It is the intention of the War Department to take into consideration the prevailing market price in each community and reach an average minimum for the war foods, regardless of the actual cost of the foods to the government.

Far Under Market Prices

It was predicted by Director Morse that the foods to be consigned to New York City would be made available to the purchasers there at a figure so low in some cases as 30 per cent under the prevailing retail market quotations. It was pointed out that New York will receive the foods at a cheaper figure than other cities by reason of the fact that the goods are stored there and no freight charges will be added.

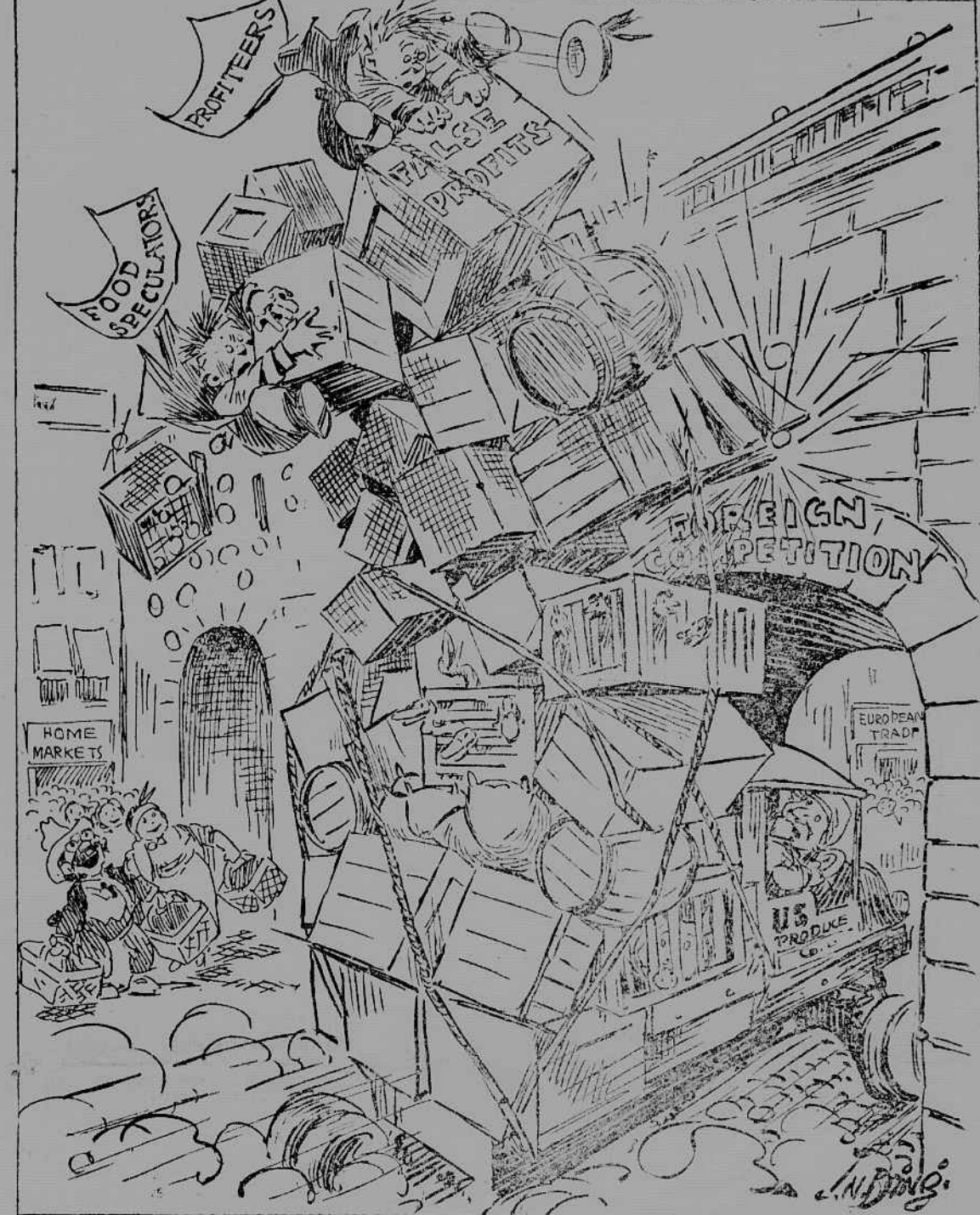
The schedule of prices will not be completed before next week, Mr. Morse said. As an indication of the price the government will expect to receive for the commodities, he referred to the figures set on eight carloads of commodities ordered by the District of Columbia. These prices, which follow, he said, would "doubtless be somewhat

French-German Mail Resumed

PARIS, July 31.—Postal communication between France and all parts of Germany was reopened to-day.

Continued on next page

Little Boys Who Steal Rides on Top of the Load Should Look Out for the Viaducts



U. S. Protests Mexican Plan To Seize Lands

Millions in Investments by Americans Threatened by Sonora Law to Give Agrarian Rights to State

WASHINGTON, July 31.—More than a thousand Americans are threatened with loss of millions of dollars in investments by a new agrarian law enacted by the Congress of Sonora, Mexico, on direct instructions from Governor Calles.

Several American companies have filed complaints with the State Department against the operation of this law and other complaints are in preparation. The department is preparing representations to the Carranza government against putting the law into operation because of injustices the American government contends it works upon United States citizens who have invested millions in agricultural lands in Sonora.

Weak Security Offered

By the terms of the law it is provided that the state will pay for lands expropriated with agrarian bonds issued by the state, redeemable at a time and manner to be stipulated later.

The new constitution of Mexico provides that the states shall issue agrarian bonds under authority of a law that has not yet been enacted by the Federal Congress. The Americans point out that these bonds are of no value, inasmuch as the national government of Mexico has not paid the interest on its bonds since 1913, and as there is no indication that the agrarian bonds will be of any value.

Poor Alternative Offered

The alternative for the American holders of these lands is to sell to the Mexicans and take pay in twenty annual installments of Mexican money. Any dispute is to be left in the hands of the Governor, who may act arbitrarily.

Americans in their complaints say that in order to make much of the lands of Sonora productive extensive irrigation works are necessary, and many millions of dollars have been expended here, in every instance by citizens of the United States. The holdings of Americans have, without exception, been secured under the old constitution. In fact, the Mexican government as then constituted encouraged Americans in making these investments.

Britain First to Ratify; King Signs the Treaty

LONDON, July 31.—Royal assent to-day was given to the German peace treaty and to the Anglo-French treaty, which thus became law.

The House of Commons ratified the peace treaty on July 24 and the House of Lords gave its assent the following day. Great Britain is, therefore, the first of the Allied and Associated powers to ratify the treaty.

Denikine Captures 5,000 Bolsheviks

Russians Take Kamishin, the Main Objective in Drive Along the Volga

LONDON, July 31 (By The Associated Press).—General Denikine, the Russian commander, has gained an important victory over the Bolsheviks and captured the town of Kamishin, on the Volga. Five thousand Bolsheviks, nine guns and large quantities of material were taken in the advance.

In making this announcement, the War Office says that possession of Kamishin gives General Denikine a firmer hold on the river and his main objective in the advance on Saratov, threatening the Bolshevik communications with Astrakhan.

100 Great Lakes Ships Sold to New York Firm

Sale by U. S. Shipping Board Involves Consideration of \$80,000,000

WASHINGTON, July 31.—One hundred steamships built on the Great Lakes during the war have been sold by the Shipping Board to the American Overseas Corporation, of New York, for approximately \$80,000,000. This is probably the largest ship sale on record, the board said in announcing the deal to-night, and the vessels will eventually pass into French and Italian ownership.

Delivery of the ships will commence on August 10, and proceed at the rate of six or more a week until completed, Chairman Hurley said. As the sale is made on a partial payment basis, the board will keep a measure of control. The ships range from 2,300 to 3,500 deadweight tons draft.

Mr. Hurley made the announcement concerning the sale a few minutes before he left his office as chairman of the Shipping Board for the last time. To-morrow he returns to private life, leaving for his farm in Illinois.

London Police Strike Against Ban on Strike

Department Reorganization Bill Cause of Walkout; Affiliation With Other Unions Also Forbidden

LONDON, July 31 (By The Associated Press).—An immediate strike of the London police was decided upon to-night at mass meetings held at various places. The grievance of the police is the bill before Parliament reorganizing the department. This provides for the organization of a police union, but prohibits it from affiliating with labor unions and prohibits policemen from going on strike under any circumstances, with heavy penalties.

Secretary Hayes, of the National Union of Police and Prison Officers, has issued an order in the name of the executive committee calling out to the members of the kingdom at once and also an appeal to all organized workers to move to our support at our earliest convenience.

Early this morning very few policemen had responded to the strike call. A large majority of the policemen were not aware of the intention of the union to call them out, and many learned that the strike had been ordered only through being asked by newspaper reporters whether they intended to join the movement.

Some Criticize Union

Some doubt has been expressed that the strike will prove more than partial. The men recently got a substantial raise in pay and other concessions, and it is said that a large part of the force disapproves of the conduct of the union by the existing officers.

The Police and Prison Officers' Union, which is the policemen's own union, is not only upon the attack itself, but upon the whole labor interests; hence their appeal to the workers, which begins:

"The government has dared to persist in its effort to utilize the political machinery to destroy your undoubted right to organize for the legal protection of your own interests."

Would Destroy Union

It proceeds to explain that preservation of the union is the only means whereby the men can retain their hard won freedom as citizens, and continues:

"The passage of the police bill will mean the complete destruction of your union, the existence of which was fully agreed to by the Prime Minister on August 31, 1918, and again by Lord Cave in behalf of the government, on September 12, 1918.

Congress and Palmer Move On Profiteers

Attorney General Calls In Other Members of Cabinet Following Meeting With Mr. Wilson

Senate and House Debate Question

Officials Are Stirred by Pleas for Action From the R. R. Brotherhoods

WASHINGTON, July 31.—Governmental machinery was set in motion to-day in response to demands from the public that some official action be taken to relieve the high cost of living.

Prices as they affect the average citizen, assumed first place in interest in the capital. At the White House President Wilson was said to be giving "deep and very thoughtful consideration" to problems presented to him and the Railroad Administration by members of the railroad brotherhoods, who represented that prices would have to come down or wages go up, if social unrest was not to develop into upheaval.

In the Senate and House the attention gave rise to several resolutions to investigate the cause of existing price levels, another to reduce the volume of currency in circulation as a means of deflating prices, one to request the Attorney General to step speculation in foods on exchanges, and another to sell this year's wheat crop at market prices instead of at the government guarantee, the difference to be made up by the government.

Palmer Calls Conference

Late to-day Attorney General Palmer met eight government officials whom he had summoned to his office for a discussion of high costs and the best methods to pursue to effect a reduction. After a general talk, lasting nearly three hours, the conference disbanded to meet again, probably next week, for further counsel, based on additional information to be collected in the meantime.

Those attending the conference included Secretaries Glass, Hanton, Redfield and Wilson; Director General Hines, Chairman Murdock of the Federal Trade Commission, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Ledingwell and W. B. Colver, of the Federal Trade Commission.

Mr. Ledingwell said that demands for more wages were pressing before the Railroad Administration from several hundred thousand employees. Perhaps the most serious situation, however, officials have heard in a long time came in this connection in the statement of W. G. Lee, president of the trainmen, before the wage adjustment board.

Mr. Lee told the board that an increase in wages was not the proper solution of the present economic hardships under which workmen are laboring, because they would be followed by new increases in the cost of everything, which would more than absorb the additional pay.

Until all classes get together to stop profiteering, he said, the only thing everyone can do is to get all the wages he can, a course which he declared would result eventually in precipitating the social revolution staring the country in the face.

As a step toward breaking the high prices, plans are being made by Secretary Baker, Postmaster General Hurley and Mr. Palmer, to send a commission to Pennsylvania, to see through the parcel post surplus army food stocks valued at \$24,000,000.

General Palmer declined to discuss what took place. Mr. Palmer said the conference was called chiefly for the purpose of making a survey of the actual distribution of information on which the head of the nation's law enforcement machinery might act to curb profiteering.

New National Pastime

"It seems to be a universal pastime, putting this thing into the Attorney General," Mr. Palmer said, smiling. "Even the Governors have taken to blaming this department for existing price levels."

In response to questions, Mr. Palmer admitted that there was no law by which prices could be lowered directly, but he declined to say whether new legislation would be introduced to enable the department to punish men who may be guilty of profiteering.

"There is a great deal of good law on the statute books," the Attorney General declared.

When a course of action is decided upon the Federal Trade Commission is understood to be ready to supply the most extensive collection of information ever gathered by any government. Production cost figures have been obtained by the commission on industries representing \$30,000,000,000 worth of capital, as the result of its activities during the war in advising the government what prices to pay for millions of dollars of purchases made by it. For this reason, it is believed the commission is ready to urge that further investigations, which seem to be forthcoming, be resolutely pushed in Congress, would only muddle the situation, causing the loss of valuable time and waste of money.

Manufacturers Get Big Profits
The commission's investigations during the war, all of which deal only